



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## North Coast Region

**Daniel F. Crowley, Chairman**

**Winston H. Hickox**  
*Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection*

Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/~rwqcb1/>  
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403  
Phone 1-877-721-9203 (toll free) • Office (707) 576-2220 • FAX (707) 523-0135



**Gray Davis**  
*Governor*

February 1, 2001

Resident or Property Owner  
West College Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear Resident or Property Owner:

Subject: SOIL GAS SURVEY, WEST COLLEGE AVENUE  
WEST COLLEGE AVENUE/CLOVER DRIVE HVOC, CASE NO. 1NSR369

The Regional Water Board staff is investigating the extent of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contamination detected near the intersection of West College Avenue and Clover Drive, Santa Rosa, California. Contamination has been detected in numerous wells in the area, and is a threat to other wells.

Regional Water Board will attempt to determine where PCE is located beneath the ground by conducting a soil gas survey of the area. The extent of contamination will be assessed by determining the concentration of PCE in the air spaces in the soil. The variations in concentrations will also allow the Regional Water Board to determine more closely where materials may have been spilled or leaked.

Regional Water Board staff is requesting your permission to access your property to conduct the soil gas survey. The soil gas survey includes the temporary installation of soil gas samplers in the ground throughout the neighborhood. The installation of these samplers includes the following steps:

1. A small hole (about 3/4 inch in diameter) is made to a depth of three feet into the ground.
2. A sampler is placed into this hole. Enclosure 1 is a drawing of the soil gas sampler. The hole is plugged with a cork placed even with the ground surface. At this point, there will be minimal evidence of the hole.
3. The sampler is left in the ground for approximately two weeks. It is then removed from the ground and the hole is refilled using a bentonite (clay) mixture, or neat cement.

For efficiency, these samplers are generally installed by a team of five people. The team includes two people installing the hole (and then moving on to the next site), two people inserting the soil gas sampler and precisely documenting the location of the hole and finally, one person to clean the equipment before it is used for the next hole. Using this technique, the team is able to install up to 40 gas samplers per day.

Approximate locations planned for the soil gas samplers are shown on Enclosure 2. These locations are critical to determine the extent of contamination. In most cases, we can make minor adjustments

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to these locations to avoid patios, flowerbeds and other locations that are of particular concern to you. **My staff is available to discuss with you any specific locations on your property which are of special concern to you.** Please call Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653. He is coordinating the soil gas sampling.

This type of soil sampling is much less invasive than techniques that had been used for similar investigations up until a few years ago. The older techniques generally involved boring with a large drilling truck which was much slower and much more expensive.

**Please sign the attached authorization form (Enclosure 3) and return it in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope (Enclosure 4) as soon as possible.** I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important matter. Information contained in this letter is also available at our web site: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1/wcollege\\_clover.html](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1/wcollege_clover.html). If you have any questions, comments or concerns please call Stephen Bargsten of my staff at (707) 576-2653.

As a final note, I wish to inform you that we have scheduled a public meeting to discuss the overall status of our work in the neighborhood and answer questions from the community. The public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2001 at 7 p.m. in the Finley Center at 2060 West College Avenue in Santa Rosa. Representatives of the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma will also participate in the meeting. We will send you additional information on the public meeting approximately 10 days before the meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Warner  
Chief, Cleanup and Special  
Investigations Division

Attachment:

- (1) Drawing of the Soil Gas Sampler \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Map of Proposed Soil Gas Locations \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Authorization Form \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Self Addresses Stamped Envelope \_\_\_\_\_

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